



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
June 28, 2005

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Be Safe on BLM Public Lands Over the Fourth of July Holiday Weekend

Visitors Asked to Use Caution and Call Before You Camp

Santa Fe, NM – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in conjunction with other land agencies, seeks the public's help to be "Fire Safe" on public lands over the Fourth of July weekend and throughout the summer, during this fire season. Conditions can change overnight!

Please call a **free** interagency fire information number, 1-877-864-6985 to obtain the most current information on fire restrictions for New Mexico or Arizona or visit the web at:
<http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc>

BLM wants to remind the public that the use of fireworks on any public lands is prohibited. Federal law enforcement officers will be patrolling the public lands over the holiday weekend and throughout the summer. Anyone using or possessing fireworks on public lands will be cited and face a fine.

Bob Lee, BLM State Fire Management Officer stated, "We want the public to have a good time using their public lands but we want everyone to be safe. You're responsible for knowing any fire restrictions." To help ensure public safety, folks should build fires using a fire pan, start campfires only in established campfire rings and use wood stoves or charcoal in developed camping and picnicking areas.

Don't start a fire underneath low hanging tree branches and clear the space around the ring for 3 feet of leaves, twigs or other potential material that can burn. Petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices are allowed and encouraged. Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel for throwing dirt on a fire to extinguish campfires. Never leave campfires unattended. Feel the ashes when you have doused the flames and stirred the water throughout the fire ring to ensure that the fire is completely out to prevent flare-ups.

BLM public lands are available for recreation and other multiple use activities. Please be aware of local laws and read regulations. Most importantly, enjoy your public lands during the Fourth of July and have a safe weekend and summer. Call 1-877-864-6985 for fire information before you camp!!

-BLM-

The BLM manages 13.4 million acres of public land in New Mexico and 47 million acres of federally owned mineral estate. The agency manages public lands and resources to sustain their health, diversity and productivity for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



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